

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. – 42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A base for a playing field comprising a layer of particulate material, said layer forming at least an upper part of the base, and a binder applied to the layer of particulate material, the binder extending from about 5 mm to about 150 mm into the layer of particulate material, the binder acting to bind at least the uppermost part of the layer of particulate material, said layer being porous to water such that water applied to a surface of the base flows through said layer.

44. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 43 wherein the particulate material in the top layer is sized such that the particulates predominantly fall within the size range of 0.025 mm to 25 mm.

45. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 44 wherein the particulate material in the top layer is sized such that the particulates predominantly fall within the size range of from 0.025 mm to 10 mm.

46. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 44 wherein the particulate material is sized such that the particles predominantly are sized below 5 mm.

47. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 43 wherein the particulate material is a crushed stone, a manufactured sand, a concrete crushed stone or a crusher dust.

48. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 43 wherein the layer is laid directly onto an underlying concrete or asphalt base or is laid onto an underlying layer of particulate material.

49. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 48 wherein the underlying layer of particulate material is a layer of graded particulate material having high permeability to water.

50. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 49 wherein the underlying layer of particulate material comprises a graded layer having particles largely in the range of 7 mm to 22.5 mm.
51. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 49 wherein, sub-surface drainage is incorporated beneath the top layer.
52. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 49 wherein a sub-layer has falls or slopes built-in during construction to enable water to run off the sub-layer.
53. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 43 wherein the binder extends from about 5 mm to about 100 mm into the layer of particulate material.
54. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 53 wherein the binder penetrates at least 10 mm into the layer of particulate material.
55. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 54 wherein the binder penetrates from 20 mm to 25 mm into the layer of particulate material.
56. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 43 wherein the binder comprises a silicate-based binder and further includes one or more setting agents.
57. (New) A base for a playing field as claimed in claim 56 wherein the binder further includes one or more surfactants.
58. (New) A method for forming a base for a playing field comprising: forming a base having at least an upper layer of a particulate material sized such that the particles predominantly fall within a size range of 0.025 mm to 10 mm; and applying a liquid binder to the top layer such that the liquid binder penetrates a distance of from 5 mm to 100 mm into the top layer and sets to bind the particulate material in the top layer; wherein said top layer retains porosity to water.
59. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58 wherein the liquid binder comprises a silicate-based binder.
60. (New) A method as claimed in claim 59 wherein the silicate-based binder incorporates a silicate component and one or more setting agents.

61. (New) A method as claimed in claim 60 wherein the binder comprises a first composition including the silicate component and a second composition including the one or more setting agents and the first composition and the second composition are mixed just prior to application of the binder to the top layer, or mixed as part of the application process for applying the binder to the top layer.

62. (New) A method as claimed in claim 61 wherein the second composition further includes one or more surfactants.

63. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58 wherein the liquid binder further includes a colouring agent so that an operator applying the binder can readily determine, by visual inspection, where the binder has been applied.

64. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58 wherein the liquid binder comprises at least one of biocides, fungicides, algacides, herbicides and pesticides.

65. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58 wherein the binder is applied to the layer of particulate material at an application rate of from 0.5 litre per square metre to 10 litres per square metre.

66. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the binder is applied to the layer of particulate material at an application rate of from 1 litre per square metre to 7 litres per square metre.